



SUMMER



**pacific
discovery**
inspiring educational adventures

Australia Summer Program

WILDERNESS IMMERSION
AND CLIMATE CONSERVATION

www.pacificdiscovery.org

Overview

Adventure, wildlife encounters, and meaningful environmental work!

Embark on an unforgettable 4-week adventure through Australia, blending cultural immersion, outdoor exploration, and environmental conservation. Start in Brisbane with a warm welcome and orientation, then head north to Fraser Island for a thrilling 4WD expedition, wildlife encounters, and beach camping. In week two, explore Byron Bay's stunning coastline with a snorkeling adventure with turtles and surf lessons at a laid-back surf camp. Week three brings hands-on conservation work on the East Coast, followed by an adrenaline-pumping canyoning experience in the Blue Mountains. The final week focuses on environmental volunteering, helping to promote sustainability at an outdoor education center, before wrapping up with iconic Sydney sights, including the Opera House and harbor.

This unique itinerary offers the perfect balance of adventure, nature, and meaningful experiences.





Sample Itinerary

***This is a guide to what you can expect to do on program.
The order in which the activities occur might vary***

WEEK 1 | **ABORIGINAL HISTORY & FRASER ISLAND** **EXPLORATION**

Welcome to Brisbane, Australia! We will spend a few nights in Brisbane, getting to know one another and exploring the city and attending a cultural tour. Here we will have an in-depth program orientation, get accustomed to life down under, and play ice-breaking games to bond with our new program friends.

We then head North up to Noosa, and embark on our three day 4WD expedition on K'gari Fraser Island. We will traverse the golden sand by 4WD, taking in the crystal clear waters. K'gari Fraser Island is home to an abundance of wildlife with over 350 different species of bird. It is an amazing place to observe dingoes and echidnas in the wild, along with all the marine life! During the day we will explore the nature and diversity of the island, snorkeling and paddle boarding, and venturing to the island hotspots with the experienced guides! In the evenings we will learn to throw a boomerang, eat marshmallows by the campfire, taking in the stars and sleeping in beach cabins.

WEEK 2 | **SNORKEL WITH TURTLES & SURF CAMP!**

We make our way south towards Byron Bay. On a sensational section of coastline, Byron Bay has been a hippy hang-out since the 1970s and today is the quintessential surfing town. Tie-dyed hippies mix with bronzed surfers, artists and large numbers of local and international tourists there to enjoy its beaches, boutiques and cafes. It's a great place to relax. While here, we'll take a boat trip out to the Julian Rocks to snorkel with turtles and tropical fish – dolphins and whales are also regularly seen in the waters around the headland. This is the place to try an optional scuba dive if you really want to immerse



yourself in this amazing underwater world.

Heading south to an isolated section of coast, we stay at a surf camp and learn to surf from our surfing-guru instructors on the myriad of breaks in the area. Spend evenings relaxing at camp, debriefing each day and hearing the instructor's wild stories before a great sleep in preparation for another day on the surf!

WEEK 3 | CONSERVATION PROJECT & CANYONING IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

At the heart of surfing is a connection-to-nature philosophy. We get to experience this in a hands-on way by undertaking volunteer conservation work alongside National Parks staff in a coastal National Park. The project revolves around bush regeneration and dune conservation near Crescent Head on the East Coast of Australia. This program aims to secure as much of the native plants and species that can be secured in the wild as possible for the next 100 years.

Continuing our southward migration, we skirt Sydney and head inland to experience the wonder of the Blue Mountains National Park. Based from the main township, Katoomba, we'll get outdoors to discover for ourselves what makes the 'Blueys' so special. We will spend a day canyoning – a unique adventure involving hiking, scrambling and rappels through sculptured rock canyons.

WEEK 4 | ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING & SYDNEY EXPLORATION

This week, we will help out at an outdoor education center, which involves young people in positive environmental projects, inspiring them to protect the planet. We learn about permaculture and sustainable living. Project activities include site landscape work for sustainability education, tree planting to regenerate a key wildlife river corridor, and habitat survey expedition days to identify forest vegetation communities and koala territories. Next, we settle into our downtown accommodation in Sydney. Bold, brash and beautiful, Sydney is arguably the world's most vibrant city. Explore Sydney's famous harbor and beaches by ferry, visit the Opera House and Australian Museum, and check out the local beaches and shopping areas. In our last couple of days in Australia, we will reflect and discuss our time in Australia.

**Each week there will be some designated free time so that you can catch up on email, do laundry, rest, and explore independently with others in the group.*

***Pacific Discovery reserves the right to alter and/or change the order of the itinerary, the focus of the projects, or the activities themselves due to dates, availability, and safety precautions.*

Program Highlights

- Canyoning in the Blue Mountains
- Surf camp in Crescent Head
- Canoe journey through the Noosa Everglades
- Snorkeling with reef sharks in Byron Bay
- See humpback whales, kangaroos, and koalas
- Hang out in the surf towns of Byron Bay, Crescent Head and Noosa
- Service-learning environmental conservation project in National Parks
- Visit Australia Zoo, learn about wildlife and the conservation initiatives of the late founder, Steve Irwin, the 'Crocodile Hunter'
- Receive a Certificate of Completed Service Hours





COUNTRY INFORMATION

Australia's warm climate, friendly people, unusual wildlife and dramatic natural beauty make it a fantastic destination. With a landmass comparable to the United States, but a population of only 28 million people, Australia is sparsely populated, yet home to some of the world's most vibrant cities. Australia's natural diversity is staggering - the world's largest coral reef, lush rainforests, and the most beautiful beaches. Wildlife is abundant, colorful and visible - kangaroos, koalas, flocks of raucous parrots, sea turtles and colorful reef fish.



CLIMATE

June – August is a fantastic time to travel the East Coast of Australia. The weather is mild and settled with very little rainfall. The temperature increases as we travel north towards the equator. Average temperatures:

Sydney: high 50°F, low 40°F | Cairns: high 80°F, low 60°F



MEALS

Meals are fresh, tasty, healthy, and varied. Special dietary requirements and vegetarians are catered for. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the program cost. Any snacks are at an additional cost, which we recommend budgeting around \$10 per day for. Food preparation responsibilities are shared by all students. It's fun, social, and often a highlight.

Regular food to expect:

- Breakfast: cereals, porridge (oatmeal), toast, spreads, eggs, yogurt, fruit, tea, and coffee
- Lunch: wraps, sandwiches, salads, dinner leftovers
- Dinner: BBQ meat, vegetables and salads, potato salad, pasta, chili, wraps, fish and chips, burgers

Camping meals will be adjusted to the cooking equipment at hand.



TRANSPORT

We will be traveling in our own group van with a luggage trailer for the duration of this program.



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CALL US Tel +1 877 636 2603

EMAIL info@pacificdiscovery.org

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